



國際關心中國慈善協會
International China Concern

SPECIAL NEWS
New Children Arrive! 3

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2020



Feature

**Corporate Partnerships:
Making a Difference** 5

Also Inside

Child Sponsorship
"How can a child you
have never met before
break your heart?" 10

Perspective
Social Worker: Don't Give Up
On Our Families! 12

Family Partners Programme
Crossing Boundaries 14

Volunteer
Q&A with Matt and Rachel Pitt 16



JANUARY 2019

Contents

- 3** CEO Message
- 3** Special News
- 5** Feature
Corporate Partnerships: Making a Difference
- 8** Project Updates
- 12** Perspective
Social Worker: Don't Give Up On Our Families!
- 14** Family Partners Program
Crossing Boundaries
- 16** Volunteer
Q&A with Matt and Rachel Pitt

Cover Photo:

Teresa Tang Wong (WFG associate and ICC Ambassador) and child from ICC Care Centre



Our Vision

Love, hope and opportunity for every child with a disability.



Our Mission

International China Concern is a Christian development organization that provides love, hope and opportunity to children with disabilities and strives to end abandonment by keeping families together.



國際關心中國慈善協會
International China Concern

International China Concern is registered in Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and the United States of America as a charitable organisation.

CEO MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

I am very inspired by the direction that ICC is taking in 2020. We have the opportunity to serve more children with disabilities than ever before. We will be expanding our reach, our programs and our impact on society. Families that never had access to crucial services will receive the support they need. More children will experience the love, hope and opportunity they deserve as we assist them to achieve their God-given potential.

While maintaining our core work at our care centers in Changsha and Hengyang, ICC is expanding our work with families in Changsha and developing vocational training programs for young adults with disabilities. This means more multi-disciplinary (Cross Care) teams reaching out to families in need and creative employment opportunities like the Little Ark (which is growing in number and variety!)

Join us as ICC expands in 2020. You will truly be changing many lives. ☩



Peter Maize
Chief Executive Officer



SPECIAL NEWS

New Life in ICC Changsha Care Centre

Karen Norman, International Project Liaison

There is new life that has come into ICC's care centers in Changsha with the addition of 28 precious lives. These ten, young people have a variety of disabilities including visual impairment, Down Syndrome and Cerebral Palsy.

During the summer, we received 10 of the children into on our community-based homes - the Senyu Home. In the short time these young people have been in ICC's care, they are learning what it is to be a family, how to work together, how to care for each other and how to receive love and care from staff.

In addition, each of the 10 children are enrolled in the Changsha Special Education School. Through donors like you, ICC now has a vehicle that can drive them to school on the other side of

the city. We also have a dedicated staff member who attends school with them and assists some of the younger children. After school, one of our teachers helps them with their homework and learning comprehension.

Enquan Yuan, the home for children with moderate to severe disabilities, is bubbling with hope as we welcomed 18 children in the last quarter of 2019. The government welfare center recently expressed their praise of the work of ICC. They acknowledged that ICC's strengths lie in having strong therapy and education services along with higher staffing levels than they can provide.

In addition to welcoming 28 young people to the ICC family, doors have been opened to provide services to those living in a local government welfare center in Changsha.

Monday through Friday, a group of children participate in ICC's day activities program. While they are with us, we provide them with snacks and three meals a day. Because most of these children have Cerebral Palsy, Down Syndrome and intellectual disabilities, they are also receiving assessments by an ICC multi-disciplinary team made up of a social worker, a therapist and a special education.

Through this collaborative approach, we are able to understand their individual needs and customized services in the area of therapy, education, group activities and some much-needed one-to-one attention.



Lives Being Transformed

In July, Jinxiu joined the ICC family in Changsha. Over the last 6 months, she has made significant progress. Initially, Jinxiu was very quiet and expressed virtually no emotion. Today, she would be described as a happy girl who, because she has been given holistic care and the love of a family, is responding to her caregivers. Through her physical therapy, Jinxiu is experiencing new levels of independence with improved balance and leg strength – all of which bring a beautiful smile to her face and celebration in the hearts of her caregivers.



Lu is 13 years old and is one of the oldest boys to join the Senyu family. He is a big brother to the younger boys of the Enquan Yuan family in Changsha. He is able to lead the younger ones and help them follow the routine.

Since joining Senyu Home, Lu has developed a love for cooking and is often found in the kitchen alongside his caregiver learning how to cook different dishes. Lu was chosen by his school to be part of the running team. He trains twice a week after school and is fast. He recently won his races at the school sports day.

We are delighted to have these 28 young people in the care of ICC and to be able to provide them all with love, hope and opportunity. ♡



FEATURE

Corporate Partnerships: Making a Difference

WFG associates at Walk the Wall Bellingham, WA (USA) 2019.

World Financial Group

Written by Jessica Pugh
(American Friends of ICC)

Business Partnerships Yield Mutual Blessings

For nearly a decade, Teresa Tang Wong (pictured in this newsletter cover) has witnessed firsthand the transformative nature of ICC's work and has become a champion for the organisation's mission. With a heart full of love for the children ICC serves, Teresa has shared partnership opportunities throughout her workplace, engaging fellow associates of World Financial Group. She

has found that engaging in partnership with ICC boosts morale within her organisation and demonstrates social responsibility while creating a meaningful difference in the lives of young people with disabilities.

“

"By myself, I can help one child. Together, we can help many children feel security and support," shared Teresa, WFG associate and ICC Ambassador. ***"Each of us can do something to share in changing lives."***

”



Lucy Lu Yang (1st right), WFG associate and ICC Ambassador, visiting ICC Care Centre in Hengyang.



From left: The young adults at ICC Care Centre with Jack Wong, Alison Kennedy (international volunteer), Teresa Tang Wong, Miranda Kuong and Dr Wan Yang.

Why Businesses Partner with ICC

Since 2011, WFG associates along with matching grants from the WFG Foundation and the WFG Charitable Trust have directly invested over US\$1 million in ICC's mission and programmes, transforming the lives of many young people. In 2015, the second floor of ICC's Hengyang Care Centre was dedicated to WFG in appreciation for their generous support. It is home to 24 children with complex needs who live in family-style group homes and receive foundational and holistic care. WFG donations help ICC provide life-saving and life-giving aid to these cherished young people.

"Each time we get the chance, we share this experience of [witnessing ICC's services]," shared Lucy Lu Yang, WFG associate and ICC Ambassador. "We share about the kids and their needs. We desire for more people in the world to help them. It's so important."

Tailor-Made Partnerships

"ICC seeks to not only build trusted relationships with our valued partners," said Tracy Imbach, ICC's US National

Office Director, "but also to partner in a manner that best speaks to the culture of the organisation with which we're working."

WFG expressed a heartfelt desire to meet the children and caregivers they help support. Through a tailor-made partnership, WFG representatives can engage with ICC at multiple levels including an ICC Champion and Ambassador Programme for those who give over US\$5,000 per year. Champions and ambassadors are eligible to join an ICC-led, self-funded Vision Trip to visit the children and ICC care centres.



Dr Wan Yang agreed that investing both donations and time has been a rewarding experience for WFG associates. "Everybody is busy. When we organised our trip, I got so excited because the kids not only need the funds, but they need us," said Dr Yang. "I feel so touched by the visit."



"One of the girls left a deep impression," shared Lucy. "She knows everything, so smart, but she can't express her herself well. She's so loving."



The visits have allowed for corporate employees to play a deeper part in the ICC family, creating lasting bonds. They come home with hearts touched and a profound desire to raise awareness in their workplace as they raise funds and support for the children they met and served.

“

"The values ICC holds were so impactful to me," commented Miranda Kuong, a WFG associate and ICC Ambassador. "And then I saw how ICC and our donations help make those values a reality. WFG is blessed to make a difference in the lives of these children."

”



PROJECT UPDATES

Theraplay® Training

In October, Clinical Psychologist Dr Joanna Blundell Jones visited our projects for the second year in a row and provided valuable training in Theraplay®. The training was given to 70 staff and parents in each of our projects. The coaching gave resources to our children, staff and families to manage the consequences of trauma, and create healing through relationship and connection. The training was a success and the evidence is now seen in the creative and meaningful ways our staff interact with the children in their care.



HENGYANG

As ICC continues to provide a home for 159 children, youth and young adults in our Hengyang care center, we are excited about the opportunity we have had to strengthen support of those attending schools in the community. Through new volunteers, additional tutoring and emotional support is helping these kids to navigate challenges with confidence.

Youth Development Program

ICC continue to focus on ways we can develop skills in our youth that gives them a sense of purpose and a place for them to grow. Through ICC's Hope Farm and the cooking skills program, our youth have been able to provide regular, tasty meals with good going from the farm to the kitchen to the table.

CHANGSHA

ICC staff was given the opportunity to reach out to children living in the government welfare center. As basic care, love and stimulation were provided, the staff rejoiced in seeing the immediate, transformative impact in the lives to the children.

Family Partners Program (FPP) New Administrator

A recent and exciting development at FPP has been the addition of Wang Hua to the administration team. Wang Hua is a young adult who grew up in one of ICC's community-based group homes. She is now working two days a week at FPP, where her warm heart and invaluable experience will continue to play a crucial role in FPP's new Youth Development Programme.



Parent Effectiveness Training (PET)

In September, FPP hosted Parent Effectiveness Training carried out by Dr Hu Zhi, a specialist in family education from Hong Kong. This three-day certification programme equipped both FPP parents and community educators of children on the autism spectrum with skills in relationship strengthening, behaviour modification and communication.



New Van

Thanks to the generous support of donors, the Hengyang Care Centre was able to purchase a van and have a wheelchair lift installed in it. This new addition allows for the safe transportation of our children in specialised chairs and increases the project's capacity to provide community activities for learning and enjoyment. 🇨🇳



PERSPECTIVE

Social Worker: Don't Give Up On Our Families!

Family Partners Programme (FPP) Social Worker: Zhang Chen
Interviewed by David Bondy, FPP Development Manager



“Our children may be born with disabilities, but they are still our angels and we love them wholeheartedly. We have to unite and not give up on our children. Together we help care for the children.”

Social worker Chen (middle) with her daughter Yaoyao (left) attending a special education session at FPP a few years ago.

Zhang Chen and her daughter Yaoyao reached out to FPP ten years ago. Through the programme, Yaoyao's health condition improved and Chen, seeing the results in the quality of care provided to her daughter, gave her support to ICC. In addition to her role of being a mother, she is now working as a FPP social worker, sharing hope and encouragement with other families using her own personal experience.

Overcoming Doubt

I have a lovely daughter, Yaoyao. In 2010, I brought her to FPP Services Centre to receive therapy. Until she was four years old, we had always brought her to government-funded facilities to

receive treatment. Back then we had never heard that a free programme like FPP existed in Changsha. The FPP team warmly welcomed us and gave my daughter an initial assessment. We then made arrangements to start treatment and therapy.

Over the next three to four months, my daughter's condition significantly improved as we became more involved in FPP activities. It has been almost ten years now. We regularly participate in summer camps, parent support groups, and the local farm tours. Attending these events brought us a lot of joy and encouragement personally and also to my family. We are very happy here.

Supporting Role

FPP services have helped me connect with other parents as well. The FPP Development Manager encouraged me to consider joining the FPP team, to support the parents and caregivers, while helping my daughter to overcome the challenges of her disabilities.

In March 2018, I was offered a role within the FPP team. In addition to being a mother with a child that attends FPP services, I became a social worker in the programme. Right now, I am responsible for liaising with families on home visits, helping with family counselling and involved in the planning of activities and events.

When I first started, I didn't believe that I could do this job and take care of my child who has special needs, because I lacked the professional qualification and knowledge in this field. Since joining the FPP team in 2018, I have attended over ten related professional training courses and take every opportunity to learn while working on individual cases. That has been extremely helpful for me as I don't have the background of a typical social worker.

Firm Foundation

When they first arrive, children usually tend to be shy and are not used to



FPP team celebration of Yaoyao's birthday recently with Zhang Chen (3rd left) and Yaoyao (4th right).

communicating with others. I feel that the parents have a similar mindset, they think because their children have special needs or a disability, they won't behave the same way as other children. So we do our best in helping them understand the level of support FPP would provide, letting them know they don't need to be afraid or overconcerned.



"We hope to walk alongside these families, help them accept their children's conditions, help them see that every child is an angel and they deserve to be loved and cared for by their parents."



Seeing the young people and parents grow with confidence as we serve and support them, I also feel that my work becomes purposeful. The workload can be heavy and complicated, but because everything we do is for the families and children, they make it all worthwhile! 🌸

FAMILY PARTNERS PROGRAM

Crossing Boundaries



In recent months our Family Partners Program has expanded with the addition of therapists and social workers. This has enabled the start of the second Cross Care Team.

Dongdong in special education class at FPP Services Centre.

FPP Development Manager, David Bondy, shares the story of Dongdong.

Several months ago we came into contact with a rural family raising a child with Down Syndrome.

Dongdong is a precious little boy and is responding well to both special education and therapy sessions that happen weekly at our FPP Family Services Center.

Since the family are not residents of Changsha city, they are not able to participate in government-funded programs and are grateful to receive our services.



Dongdong and his mother at a hospital waiting for a doctors appointment.

Cross Care Team

Cross Care includes a professional therapist, a social worker and a special education teacher. All members of the team work together to ensure that every area of concern is adequately addressed, and that the child and family receive optimal care.

During his initial assessment, it was clear that Dongdong had a protruding growth on his neck. His mother explained that this sometimes interferes with his swallowing and she has been concerned that it may be something serious that would require risky surgery. But not having the means or know-how to get it checked out, she has opted instead to wait and see.

In order to determine exactly what was happening with Dongdong, the FPP Cross Care Team that has been assigned to his case recommended that we provide the funding necessary to get this investigated.

To assist Dongdong's mother with the often complicated medical system, our team also accompanied her and her son to the hospital. Thankfully, the outcome was that there were no major problems and nothing that needed to be addressed by surgery at this time. The relief on Dongdong's mother's face was palpable.

On the day of his doctor appointment, we also discovered that it is difficult for Dongdong and his mother to

navigate the complex subway system in Changsha. She is from a smaller area and typically sticks with the bus even though it takes twice as long to come to the FPP Service Center. The team has now devised a plan to help them take advantage of this public transit tool and cut their commute time in half.

It is a joy to be able to lighten the burdens of families such as these in any way we can!

Rural families have a different Hukou (household registration) than urban residents living in cities like Changsha. Resources for these families are limited; very few can receive adequate public education and medical welfare in their villages. To provide a better future for their children, rural families often choose to move away from the village to the city, even when that means having to pay for the benefits themselves. FPP works with families in rural areas like Dongdong's family, where it is difficult to get access to medical benefits, especially for children with special needs. ♡



Dongdong and his mother attending a FPP therapy session together.

Join us as a Family Partner to keep families together!

chinaconcern.org/partner

VOLUNTEER

Q&A with Matt and Rachel Pitt



Matt and Rachel joined our international long-term volunteers' team in August 2018. Here they share their story of making the move from their home in the Midlands, UK, all the way to ICC Care Center in Changsha, Hunan Province.

"These young people are changing perceptions and it's great to be a part of." – Matt Pitt

Before joining ICC, Rachel and I were living in Leicester, a small and diverse city in the Midlands, UK. I was working for the Church of England as a pioneer development worker – guiding people to start new church communities in partnership with their local communities. Rachel was commuting to Nottingham (about an hour north of Leicester), working in a rehabilitation unit for people with brain injury and stroke as an occupational therapist. We'd been living in Leicester for six years having graduated in 2011 in Sheffield (where we met) and married in 2012.

We always knew, separately, that we wanted to work abroad in some

capacity and Rachel had come out on a Short Term Team to Changsha in 2010 while studying as an occupational therapist. Rachel and her family know John Cooper (who used to work at the UK office and lead short term teams to China) very well so have always had a connection with ICC. It therefore seemed a good fit and as we started talking about it, the more it became clearer to us that we should take the step to sell all our belongings, quit our jobs and jump into the unknown. We're very glad we made that decision.

Which area of ICC do you work in?

Rachel works across all areas in Changsha Care Center, and with Family Partners Program (FPP), a service for families who need assistance to care for their disabled children and to prevent abandonment. Currently I work within Changsha Care Center, assisting with vocational training at the Little Ark, leading short term teams, and writing "Hand-in-Hand" sponsorship updates.

Part of the Changsha Care Center is the group home for children with moderate to severe disabilities called Enquan Yuan. We both spend a lot of time there. Rachel meeting therapy needs and supervising the local therapists, while

I help by spending one-to-one time with the children. It's been great to get to know all the kids at Enquan Yuan.

What surprises you and Rachel the most while you are living here?

Many things surprise us in China and there's something new to learn everyday. The main thing that has surprised us, while spending time with ICC's children and young people, are the moments of beauty, love and encounter, where they flip everything on its head and demonstrate love to you, the person that has come to help them.

Community Homes Visit

Every Thursday evening, we spend time with the adults who live in Senyu Home, a community-based group home for young adults. It's become a routine that we now head to the local supermarket with them to get their food for the next day. The Ayi (carer) tells them how much money they can spend, and they have to come up with a menu. Twenty-year-old Feng (who has been with ICC since she was one-year-old) takes the lead on this, while generally, the others get us into a bit of fun chaos, wandering around the supermarket picking up things they shouldn't.

We're always followed by a crowd whenever we go to the supermarket; it's often four international volunteers and four or five ICC young people with one in a wheelchair.

The locals love to watch us. I hope they are learning about how people with disabilities can contribute to society. The staff at the supermarket certainly expects us along on a Thursday evening and are always very accommodating and helpful. These young people are changing perceptions, and it's great to be a part of. ♡



From left: Rachel Pitt (international volunteer), Luelue, Fengfeng, Chaochao and Juanita Pretorius (international volunteer).

We invite you to help further these stories of transformation by joining a Short Term Team or becoming a long-term volunteer:

chinaconcern.org/volunteer



CONNECT WITH ICC

AUSTRALIA

+ 61 (0) 7 3812 8118
australia@chinaconcern.org

 australiaicc

CANADA

+1 604 322 3119
canada@chinaconcern.org

 chinaconcerncanada

CHINA

+86 731 85231546
china@chinaconcern.org

HONG KONG

+852 2529 2192
hongkong@chinaconcern.org

 hongkongicc

NETHERLANDS

+31 79 323 0343
nederlands@chinaconcern.org

 NederlandICC

SINGAPORE

+65 9684 6914
singapore@chinaconcern.org

UNITED KINGDOM & REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

+ 44 (0) 191 2611079
uk@chinaconcern.org

 chinaconcernuk

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

+1 360 746 8520
usa@chinaconcern.org

 AmericanFriendsofICC

 www.aficc.org



Pray for ICC



Be a Volunteer



Give Support



國際關心中國慈善協會
International China Concern

www.chinaconcern.org



China Concern



ID: @icclife | @iccspring | @爱希会